



**For Immediate Release**

## **Saved Citizen Donates AED to Sheriff's Office**

It was an automated external defibrillator (AED) that York-Poquoson Sheriff's Deputies used last June to help save the life of Mr. Richard Roberts as he was suffering from a cardiac emergency. He wants to do his part to see that someone else has the same opportunity at a second chance. *On June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007, deputies were dispatched to the 1000 block of Seaford Road for a report of a subject not breathing. Upon arrival, Deputy Jeff Charville located the victim in the living room. He was unresponsive, blue in color and not breathing. Deputy Charville immediately applied his AED to the patient and delivered a shock as advised. Deputy Shawn Wood arrived and together they performed CPR. York County Fire and Life Safety personnel arrived on the scene took over care and transported the patient to a local hospital. In November, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts contacted Major Ron Montgomery about wanting to purchase and donate an AED to the Sheriff's Office. A month later the unit they bought, costing just over \$1300.00, joined the fleet of 56 AEDs already in use by Deputies in York County and Poquoson. Sheriff J.D. "Danny" Diggs stated "Their generous act is a great way show their appreciation for a very successful program."*

[Mr. Richard Roberts has made the offer to media for comment and/or interview if needed; his phone number is \(757\)-898-4804.](#)

**Additional AED Information**

*It is the policy of the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office to provide the highest level of public service possible and to increase the public's safety. Every year approximately 350,000 people suffer cardiac arrest and only approximately 5 percent survive. Cardiac arrest is a condition in which abnormal heart rhythms called arrhythmias cause the electrical impulses to suddenly become chaotic. When this happens, the heart stops abruptly, and the victim collapses and quickly loses consciousness. Death usually follows unless a normal heart rhythm is restored within a few minutes. Defibrillation – delivering an electric shock to the heart, is the only known treatment to restore normal rhythm. For every minute defibrillation is delayed, the victim's chance of survival is reduced by 7 – 10 percent. Automated external defibrillators (AED) now available to sheriff's deputies are safe and easy to use, making it possible for non-medical personnel to be trained to provide rapid defibrillation. AEDs are assigned to the courthouse building, county high schools, and each patrol district. Rapid defibrillation is the single most important factor in the resuscitation of adult cardiac arrest victims.*